

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

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INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 7213

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: PERON CALLS FOR EXPULSION OF MARXIST ELEMENTS

1. SUMMARY. PERON REPORTEDLY HAS CALLED FOR ALL OUT STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISTS AND FOR EXPULSION OF MARXIST ELEMENTS FROM PERONIST MOVEMENT AND FROM GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.
2. PERONIST SOURCES YESTERDAY CONFIRMED EARLIER PRESS REPORTS THAT AT MEETING WITH LEADERS OF HIS MOVEMENT ON SEP 29, PERON INDICATED RUCCI'S ASSASSINATION WAS "DROP WHICH CAUSED GLASS TO OVERRUN". HE ORDERED ALL OUT STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISTS, AND EXPULSION OF ALL MARXIST ELEMENTS FROM PERONIST MOVEMENT AND FROM GOVERNMENT.
3. ONE RESULT OF PERON'S ORDER WAS MINISTER OF EDUCATION TAIANA'S CALL FOR RESIGNATION OF UNIVERSITY INTERVENTOR RODOLFO PIGGROS (SEE SEPTTEL).
4. ANOTHER MANIFESTATION WAS SEEN AT GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, WHICH WAS PRESIDED OVER BY PERON, PRESIDENT LASTIRI, CONFIDENTIAL

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MINISTER OF INTERIOR LLAMBI AND OTHER HIGH-RANKING PARTY AND

GOVERNMENT FIGURES. GOVERNORS REPORTEDLY WERE ORDERED TO PURGE THEIR PROVINCIAL CABINETS OF ANY MARXIST ELEMENTS. ACCORDING TO LA OPINION THIS MRNING, GOVERNORS WERE ALSO INFORMED OF RESTRICTED ORDER WHICH HAS GONE OUT TO ALL PROVINCIAL DELEGATES OF PERONIST MOVEMENT INSTRUCTING THEM TO INITIATE CONCERTED CAMPAIGN AGAINST SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS. THOSE WHO DO NOT COOPERATE IN STRUGGLE OR WHO IN ANY WAY TOLERATE SUBVERSIVE ACTS ARE TO BE EXPELLED FROM MOVEMENT FORTHWITH. MARXIST ELEMENTS ARE HENCEFORTH TO BE EXCLUDED FROM ALL PARTY MEETINGS AND ARE TO BE DENIED ACCESS TO ANY OF PARTY'S CHANNELS FOR DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION. ORDER REPORTEDLY GOES ON TO STATE THAT ALL GROUPS AND SECTORS WHICH CLAIM TO BE PART OF PERONISM MUST NOW PUBLICLY DEFINE THEMSELVES WITH RESPECT TO STRUGGLE AGAINST MARXIST GROUPS AND MUST ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN THAT STRUGGLE (OR RISK EXPULSION).

5. COMMENT. IT IS INTERESTING THAT PERON'S REACTIONS TO RUCCI ASSASSINATION INCLUDES CALL FOR PURGE OF MARXIST ELEMENTS FROM PERONIST MOVEMENT. ONE MIGHT ASSUME THAT WERE HE CERTAIN ERP RESPONSIBLE, HIS REACTION WOULD HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED TO CALL FOR ITS EXTERMINATION. TO LINK EXPULSION OF MARXIST ELEMENTS FROM MOVEMENT WITH RUCCI'S DEATH TENDS TO SUBSTANTIATE EARLIER SUGGESTIONS THAT FAR AND FAP RATHER THAN ERP ARE SUSPECTED.

6. CRUCIAL QUESTION HERE IS ONE OF DEFINITION OF TERM "MARXIST ELEMENTS". IF IT IS APPLIED IN NARROW SENSE TO BRING ABOUT OUSTER OF IRRESPONSIBLE EXTREMIST TYPES SUCH AS PUIGGROS AND GROUPS SUCH AS FAP, IT COULD BE VERY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT. PRESUMABLY, THIS WILL BE THE CASE. GIVEN BYZANTINE NATURE OF FACTIONAL STRIFE WITHIN PERONIST MOVEMENT, HOWEVER, THERE IS ALWAYS DANGER THAT THIS SORT OF THING COULD GET OUT OF HAND AND LEAD TO INDISCRIMINATE APPLICATION OF MARXIST LABEL TO ANYONE WITH WHOM LEADERSHIP DOES NOT AGREE.

7. HOW YOUTH SECTOR OF PERONIST MOVEMENT WILL REACT TO THIS LATEST SLAP AT THE LEFT REMAINS TO BE SEEN. ANSWER TO THAT MAY RESIDE IN QUESTION POSED ABOVE: HOW ARE "MARXIST ELEMENTS" TO BE DEFINED?
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